

MEMORANDUM FOR: AD/RR

17 December 1954

THROUGH: Acting Chief, E

Chief, D/S

Chief, E/TF

FROM: [REDACTED] S/TF 25X1A9a

SUBJECT: Code of Customs Tariffs of the USSR, 1954
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1. On 12 December 1954 Mr. [REDACTED], of Legislative Counsel, and I visited the offices of Senator George W. Malone to review subject item which the senator had received from Soviet Ambassador Menshikov. Senator Malone's Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is currently preparing a report on foreign tariffs and tariff policies; the senator had accordingly asked the Soviet Embassy if any "substantial changes" had been made since the issuance of the 1939 Code of Customs Tariffs of the USSR. In transmitting the 1954 Code to the senator Ambassador Menshikov noted that "since then (1954) there have been no substantial changes in the USSR Tariff Code".

2. As the 1954 Code was reportedly considerably expanded over the 1939 Code, the senator's staff thought we would be interested in comparing the two editions. This was not completely possible, however, as only the first section on general import duties of the 1939 Code was available. Nevertheless, [REDACTED] Mr. James Kieffens of the senator's staff and I reviewed the two editions to the extent possible and found an extremely close correlation -- only a few duties have been altered, the tariff on domestic household hardware has been eliminated, and a duty on film products, primarily motion-pictures has been imposed. Also, the fact that the 1954 Code is 97 pages in length as against 95 pages for the 1939 Code, according to the Library of Congress catalog, disproved the report of considerable expansion.

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3. The five sections of the 1954 Code are entitled as follows:

1. General Customs Tariffs for Imported Goods.
2. Customs Tariff Differentials for Goods Imported through the Port of Murmansk.
3. Customs Tariffs for Goods Imported from Eastern Countries.
4. General Customs Tariffs for Exported Goods.
5. Customs Rates for Certain Afghan Goods Imported into the USSR.

Section 1, the most important and the longest, comprising 27 pages, is basically a reproduction of the 1939 Code as noted above. Section 2, only 2 pages in length, establishes percentage reductions on the tariff for certain goods passing through Murmansk, especially during the winter months, apparently to encourage shipments through this port. Section 3 (2½ pages) appears to lower duties on certain imports from Middle and Far Eastern countries; this does not seem to be a new section but is rather a continuation of prewar procedure. Similarly, Section 5 (1 page) singles out certain Afghan imports for very low tariffs, yet this is noted as being based on a 1925 law. Finally, Section 4 covering general exports in 4 pages appears to preserve the existing schedules on certain types of livestock products, furs, and the like. Over half the 1954 Code (55 pages) is devoted to an alphabetical index by subject.


4. After completing our review of the two Soviet Codes and I were introduced to Senator Malone who related his views on American tariff policy and thanked us for our services although he observed he could only reference the later Soviet Code as his report is almost completed. Nothing substantive resulted from this conversation.

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5. Materials obtained on this visit were two reports of the senator's Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, a compendium of the senator's domestic and foreign policy speeches, a photostated copy of Section 1 of the 1939 Code and the 1954 Code together with the

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pertinent correspondence between Senator Malone and Ambassador Menshikov. The 1954 Code was photographed, and with the correspondence was returned to the senator's office on 15 December 1958 as per his request. The copies of the 1954 Code and the first section of the 1939 Code will be kept in S/TF/U.

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ORR/S/TF  :evb/8132 (16 December 1958)